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The Overman Bill - A Needed Lesson in Constitutional Law.

The error of our admirable neighbor the World seems to centre in the idea that the fact of the designation of the President by the Constitution rejection." as Commander in Chief of the Army and No y makes him independent of legislative action in such matters as the creation of a War Cabinet or a Directorate of Munitions.

If that were so it would be as true In time of peace as in time of war. The President is just as much Commander in Chief in peace as in war. The only specific distinction in his powers as Commander in Chief, as between war time and peace time, refers to his command of the militia

If that were so, again, or if Mr. would not now be asking Congress. in the Overman bill, for new author-Ity to reorganize departments and bureaus and to organize new departments and new bureaus according to his unaided judgment of what is necessary. He would need no such enabling legislation.

We invite the attention of our neighbor to certain parts of the Constitution which it may possibly have overlooked while concentrating its faculties upon the Commander in Chief clause.

Section 8 of Article I. provides in the fourteenth clause that the Congress shall have power:

"To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval

In the eighteenth clause it provides that the Congress shall have power:

execution the foregoing powers [that is, all the enumerated powers of Congress]

Including the unspecified and unenumerated powers vested by the Constitution in the President as Commander in Chief.

There is nothing vague or nebulous, as we think our esteemed contemporary will perceive, in this legislative function of the Congress, provided and prescribed by the Constitution. The World, to the amazement of many of its friends and admirers, has recently been advising the President to resist and attempt to nullify a law establishing a War Cabinet should such a bill pass Congress over tells Mr. Wilson, if in your independent judgment they invade your war

powers as Commander in Chief. Instead of making up his mind to do that very foolish and impeachable thing the President has taken the only less surprising course of asking the Congress to transfer to him in bulk, and bodily, as if by a blank check or an unlimited power of at torney, its constitutional function set forth in the clauses quoted above.

We scarcely expect the World to advise Congress to tear up the Con stitution itself, as it has been advising the President to tear up laws enacted by Congress according to the

The Constitution contains no pro vision enabling the Legislative department to surrender to the Executive the legislative powers concerning executive agencies defined in the eighteenth clause of Section 8 of Ar-

The Overman bill, prepared by the President or at his direction and sent from the White House to the Capitol, is a proposal to Congress to abdicate during the period of the war and for one year after the war. It is almost inconceivable that Congress should accept the unprecedented invitation. THE SUN has insisted, and insists and will continue to insist, that it is the duty of Congress to strengthen the hands of the President in the conduct of the war by granting to him every distinctly specified and properly defined instrument or agency necessary for the successful prosecution of the great enterprise. This call for blanket powers over the organization and regulation of the departments

the Constitution makes it.

It Is Hard to Be a Drunkard.

It has long been the common belief that none could say just at what point a man became drunk. There are, however, more definite ways to determine when a man is a drunkard. We find them in the new regulations for the physical examin drafted or enlisting men by cians of local boards, under ing "Chronic Alcoholism": for the physical examination of drafted or enlisting men by the physicians of local boards, under the head-

"The registrant on examination must show suffused eyes, prominent superficial blood vessels of nose and cheek checks, money orders, &c., to be brane of pharynx, and soft palate; muscular tremor in the protruded tongue interrelated. In this day of the world ordination of existing agencies to renand extended fingers, tremulous handwriting, emotionalism, prevarication, sus- neighbors who, in the terms of the difficult to bring about. picion, auditory and visual hallucinations, persecutory ideas."

The young man who wishes to coholism must therefore be, in more familiar if less eloquent language, an awful thing, a red beaked, pink eyed bum, a trembling wretch with a crying jag, a lying rumbound afraid of cinity were so in that earlier time. his own shadow and hardly two jumps in front of the willies. It is hardly necessary for the author of the rules to add:

strant has been frequently and grossly intexicated is not of itself sufficient for a diagnosis of chronic alcoholism and

prohibition it seems to be hard to be a regular, blown in the bottle, utterly has no time to enjoy them. useless drunkard

An Old Doctrine in a New World.

tion or with regret, that our an- sloner buckles down. All he needs nounced position with relation to the to be is a first class business execuof the several States "when called issues of the great war involves a tive. All the assistance he requires into the actual service of the United denial of our historic attitude to the can be furnished by experts. If, how-States"; not at all to his command affairs of the rest of the world. How ever, the Head Business Man is also of the army and navy of the United can we maintain "splendid isolation" a discreet after dinner speaker or is diers to fight on European soil? Can America, so much the better. Wilson himself thought it so, he we avoid the pitfall of "entangling alliances" by the mere official expedient of calling those nations which, like us, are at war with Germany our "associates" instead of our allies? Does not the declaration of our President that we shall fight to the end for such aims as the freedom of Poland, the deliverance of oppressed peoples from the yoke of the Turk, the rectification of the boundary of Italy. in and of itself imply a renunciation of the Monroe Doctrine? Have we not given the lie to the solemn declaration of President CLEVELAND, as he faced the possibility of war with a rived at," the chances of a complete European Power to prevent its interference with affairs in the Western Hemisphere, that the Monroe Doc trine "cannot become obsolete while

our republic endures"? In a time like this when cosmic changes are making almost between a bill to establish a State constabunecessary and proper for carrying into the years that are gone, it is well for a people committed to a great adventure to examine with clear sight and all other powers vested by this and earnest meditation the bases and Constitution in the Government of the the implications of their acts. It is United States, or in any department or not amiss to go back to the sources and discover just what were the foundation principles of their traditional doctrines. For if we are to abandon or fundamentally to modify the policy held tenaclously for a century it should be done with full appreciation

> of what we are doing. At the opening of the first session of the Eighteenth Congress President Mongoe addressed his attention to affairs in Europe in their relation to conditions in the Western Hemisphere. In his message appears this passage:

comport with our policy so to do. It is a wholesome respect for it. only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preparations for our defence. With the movements in this hemisphere we are, of necessity, more Local authorities in small towns and immediately connected, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlight- equipped or trained to meet the seriened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied Powers is essentially different in this respect from State constabulary is always apparthat of America. This difference pro- ent, it has become imperative since ceeds from that which exists in their fence of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of our most enlightened citizens. and under which we have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this whole nation is devoted. We owe it, therefore, to candor, and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and Canada under which neither country those Powers, to declare that we should will seek to take from the other labor consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing many. Instead of a rivalry consultpean Power we have not interfered and shall not interfere. But with the Governments who have declared their independence and maintain ". and whose independence we have, on great considera- directed to the work essential to both tion and on just principles, acknowl- of them. edged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them or controlling in any other manner their destiny by any European Power in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposi-

tion toward the United States."

ent. The Overman bill, if ever re- are two: the resenting of injuries regulated competition might strip one ported from the Senate Committee on | done to ourselves, and the championthe Judiciary, should be defeated in ship of weaker peoples against the order that our Government may re-threatened imposition upon them of main the Government of laws which the system of absolute monarchy. There is but one limitation upon the application of the latter principle. The weaker peoples must be our near

But these are exactly the principles which inform our present participation in the great war. We are fighting to repel invasions of our rights and injuries done to ourselves; and we are fighting to prevent the exeusion of the political system of Germanic militarism and autocratic imperialism over the rest of the world. We have put no limitation on the apthen and now. But it is more apparsmaller, more compact, more closely parable, have gone down to Jericho in their defencelessness and have fallen among thieves. Belgium and Poland evade the draft on the ground of aljects of our guardianship and our championing, just as truly as the new republics of our more immediate vi-

Exit the Ambassador.

Ambassadors are being abolished rapidly for the duration of the war, "The history or evidence that the reg- and perhaps longer. Now comes a report from Rome that Italy is to follow the example of France and Great Britain by sending to this country a High Commissioner.

The Ambassador, in such a case, is An analysis of the rejections in either actually withdrawn or virtuseveral cities shows that only one ally deposed. He returns home, perman in two hundred is rejected for haps on leave of absence, and never alcoholism. Even before the dawn of comes back. The High Commissioner succeeds to his rank and honors, but

Allocation of shipping, speeding up production, alignment of national policles and forwarding of supplies are It is easy to assume, with satisfact the tasks to which the High Commis-

As for the regular diplomatic stuff now dwindled to an inconsequential trickle, the Charge d'Affaires, at a small desk in the corner of the big man's room, can look after that. It is the Charge's duty to call on Mr. LANSING twice a week, greeting him with the polite formula with which CICERO opened his letters: "If you are well, it is well: I too am well."

The new diplomacy is "shirt sleeve diplomacy" of the American kind that used to be sneered at abroad. Has it come to stay? Well, if, after the war, we are to have among the nations "open agreements, openly arreturn to the old style diplomacy are not especially bright.

Policing New Jersey.

The Assembly of the New Jersey Legislature will vote on Monday on the people. The measure contemplates the creation of a body of trained men, under command of an officer skilled in police work and free from local entanglements and political control.

Pennsylvania's experience with its constabulary has become the chief argument in favor of the creation of such forces in other States; If New Jersey wants another encouraging example of the good that can be done by such bodies, it can get it from New York. The constabulary here has has had the benefit of its ministrations would its abolition be considered for a moment by any respectable person. Already its troopers have made the rural districts safer than "In the wars of the European Powers they were in the past, and lawbreak in matters relating to themselves we ers of all grades from highwaymen his veto. Tear up forty such laws, it have never taken any part, nor does it to speed maniacs have come to have

It is particularly desirable at the and fearlessly applied in all places. thinly settled sections are not ous emergencies that may arise at any around the sun in the same period of moment. Although the need of a we entered the war, and the enlightits progressive neighbors in this repect without delay.

Pulling Together. The United States, through the De partment of Labor, has reached an agreement with the authorities of necessary to the attainment of pur poses contributing to the attainmen of victory in the war against Gercolonies or dependencies of any Euro- ing only the selfish objects of the respective countries, there will be instituted a cooperative system of distribution, under which the man power of the nations will be intelligently

It is plain that unrestricted hidding for workers by Canada and the United States would result in wasteful and unnecessary migrations of laborers to the detriment of each. Much time would be lost and irritation would be sure to result from the luring of men The underlying principles of this across the border in either direction statement of American policy in the by promises of abnormally high and bureaus is something quite affer- first quarter of the nineteenth century wages, bonuses and the like. Un

district or another of workers, bringing distress to individuals and seriously obstructing war enterprises. Such competition would likewise produce suffering among men induced to leave their homes for temporary employment at attractive wages which could be paid only for short periods.

particularly acute in both countries this season, and the supply might be dangerously disturbed by unrestrained competition. Fortunately, the distribution of workers is not a new problem, and its solution through the natural adaptability of man has already made great progress here and in Canada. The workers follow the seaplication of the latter principle. There sonal developments of the agriculis the one apparent difference between tural sections, passing from district to district as their labor is needed. ent than real. For it is a different The encouragement of this practice world in which we move to-day. It is by the Government has already produced excellent results, and the cowe rightly esteem those to be our der it more effective should not be

In this as in other matters concerning the prosecution of the war there is no boundary line between and the brutalized subject peoples of Canada and the United States. The interests of the countries are merged twentieth century to be rightful ob- in one common intere t under the imperative necessities of war.

> How will restriction to two ounces of bread at each meal affect the quick lunch consumers who make a heavy midday meal on sandwiches? are many of them, and their daily al-Mr. Hooven's standard.

> Senator POMERENE of Ohio, chairman on Privileges and Elections which is La Follerre, says that body "has very for prograstination.

Several millions of American citizens rejoiced yesterday when they found the streets wet and sloppy.

MAN'S DEVICE, TIME.

lates It Into Eternity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir! Re cently the writer contributed an open to THE SUN concerning an advance of the legal hour and respecting the difference between real time and artificial time. We all know the meaning while we are sending a million sol- personally known and popular in of artificial or common clock time, but the meaning of real or true time.

tained from outside of our world, that is, we observe the firmamental position to tell the hour of noon or of midnight. west to east and the yearly revolution of our earth around the sun are so regular that man is able to depend upon the apparent movements of his sun in cal-

certain height and in a certain position amid the sky according to the day of the pointment" to be in exactly a certain irmamental position at noon, a position. however, which varies from day to day. As we all know, noon is the real time ian (the highest point that he attains during that particular day), and it takes him twenty-four hours to return to the meridian, whose height and position are constantly changed by the revolution of

our world around the sun. are three kinds of real time, sidereal, apparent solar and mean solar time. Of tronomers and apparent solar time (once tle. This apparent solar time may also

its noon occurs when the sun's centre crosses the meridian, its days vary in ength so that it is unsuited for clocks and watches. Neither sidereal nor apparent solar time being suited for every day business purposes, mean solar time was chosen to regulate our watches and

Therefore, what " so often speak of been in active service only about six as "time" is really mean solar time, months, but in no community which mean solar day being the average of all the solar days in one year. By using this mean or average each day exactly the same length, twenty-four as would be the case were we to employ apparent solar time. Of course each mean solar day commences at midnight when the sun is crossing the lower or minutes (\$6,400 seconds), no more, no

Thus, time, as many of us understand present time that the criminal laws it, is the result of one complete rotation of the country should be impartially of our earth upon its axis, from midnigh to midnight, or twice twelve hours indiand clocks. Twenty-four hours equal one day, and 365% days equal a year. that is, our world whirls once wholly time that it takes our planet to rotate about 365 times upon its axis.

But most of us are accustomed to think of time in terms of watch or clock and not as resulting from the morespective Governments. And to the de- ened lawmakers of New Jersey tions of our little earth. And time is should put their State in line with really a local convenience, a terrestrial cosmos, time as such ceases really to exist-there it should be known as eter-CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES. NEWTON, Mass., February 5.

Sunflower Optimism

From the Emporia Gazette. Eventually the world may learn that man can be a Great Genius without being

When the Huns are hard pressed need of rest, As they are very often of late. Then Emperor Bill in the foreground

Prepared for another debate. He covers his blood spattered uniform. With a clock of the soft snowy fleece Of the innocent lamb, and presents to the

New terms of a Kalserized peace. But under the closk he is gripping the

Unsheathed and still dripping with red. and under the cloak he is hiding the yoke To slip over laberty's head: we're keeping our cartridge helts full just the same.

And our gunners alert in their places. For the eagle of Prussia's a two headed And therefore possesses two faces.

OIL FOR ALL NEEDS. But the Trouble Is That Transportation is Insufficient.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: Had your correspondent "J. P. R." been gifted 21 might not have appeared on your edi torial page this morning. Under the "We Waste Oil" he commends The problem of farm labor will be THE SUN for calling attention to "the oming fuel famine," and recklessi; charges "not only are we unprepare for it but we are causing it by the Not grossest, the blindest stupidity." only did your correspondent lack fore knowledge, but his peppery characterisa tion of automobile users as "senseles fast disappearing tendency to conside all motoriets as members of the "joy

> The second sight that he did not pos sess would have enabled "J. P. R." to perceive that on page 10 of the same peared would be printed the President's proclamation putting handlers of fuel statement: "Whereas it is not possible move our abundant supplies of fuel oil by reason of the traffic congestion on our railroads," &c. The accompanying statement by the Fuel Administration concludes with this: "There now is ample oil for all needs, but there is sufficient transportation available to arry it from producer to consumer. Nothing but insttentive reading of his

norning paper-or possibly a fadity spondent's excuse for ignoring the statewide circulation has already been given that "there will be no shortage (of fuel) There for all necessary uses if everybody loes his bit by avoiding waste. Twowance has been greatly in excess of thirds of the gasolene wasted will meet our war needs for the coming year."

were it possible to bring it about withof the subcommittee of the Committee out disrupting city transportation in the ring charges against Senator rupted by the coal order, would affect the situation unfavorably rather than favor limited powers," but it is plain that ably. The reason for this is that fuel no limit has been set on its power oil, which alone is affected by the latest priority ruling, is a companion produc of gasolene, both being derived fointly by the refining of crude oil. To stop th sale of gasolene, therefore, would auto matically increase the price of fuel oil through cutting off one of the refiner's principal sources of revenue. Fuel of s needful in the conduct of the war for oil burning ships, munitions factories tates of economy charge that the normal calance of the oil industry should be by the Unionist party in its last convenmaintained to prevent a "senseless" in-

rease in the cost of war supplies. The situation in Europe, which lies so heavily on your correspondent's mind, tion here, for the simple reason that the leum producers, but rely on the North American continent for the bulk of their gasolene and oil. It is the shortage of ocean shipping, therefore, that has caused the concentration of practically all imports of petroleum products on ployment of passenger cars for ordinar

Surely "J. P. R." must credit the Fue Administration with very small fitness for its tasks if he supposes it has failed to give due consideration to the effect of automobile operation. As a matter of fact the attitude of the officials in Washington very plainly indicates that the motor vehicle is regarded by the Administration as a direct offset for many of the railroad difficulties that have developed so great a hindrance to con tinued peace of mind throughout the country. This is the reason why no discouragement was offered for the accustomed holding of the automobile shows this year Instead of looking upon ton feels that its use is a direct benefit in relieving the burden of the railroads. If "J. P. R." really feels that "we." the Fuel Administrator prohibits "this these sidereal time chiefly concerns as- of oil, petroleum and gasolene," by the that they symbolize. automobile, let him consider what the 'senseless wasters' who now employ it

WILLIAM C. POERTNER. NEW YORK, February 5.

GENEROUS JOHN L. His Hand Was Always Open for Those in Trouble.

idol of our youth, the mighty "John L.," is dead. Peace to his ashes! The last of that breed of fighters the squared circle, as so interestingly set forth in THE SUN of Monday, he unseen meridian, and contains 1,440 fought more for glory than for peif. His readiness to defend his title at scarcely more than a moment's notice contrasts strongly and significantly with the money madness of the so-called champions of Fistiana to-day

But of all the generous deeds to hi credit of which the press to-day speaks the time called forth in public and in private the highest praise. I refer to his paying the hotel bills and transpo tation home of the company headed by that estimable and talented lady the elder Mrs. John Drew, when she and

they had stranded in Chicago 1 am confident that the countless ac out with a blow to the jugular (not the chin) would appreciate your telling this F. A. MOFFETT. story in detail. BROOKLYN, February 7.

A BRIDGE OF BOATS.

Goes Him One Better.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The North River is less than a mile wide; beyond lies coal. About New York there are many car floats, some with two tracks and some with four. These may be coupled up end to end and ballasted so as to make them nearly level. Very little anchorage or attention by

When set, run trains of coal across The Government without doubt would be

willing to suspend navigation for two hours, and one hour would be sufficient to get some 40,000 tons over when things were working right. G. H. CLAPP. Potgukkersik. February 7.

A Wisconsin Highway Feat. From the Viroqua Censor. Highway Commissioner Ristow has this city to be dragged into the country considerable distances.

THE CHILDREN'S YEAR. How Schonectady Has Already Bogun

the Work of Saving Bables To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SET: Your ditorial article of January 31 upon the "Children's Year" has been most interesting to us in Schenectady who are at present engaged in an effort to mak

The work was undertaken for what re considered two very good reasons: first, because improper feeding during the first decade of life is unquestionably the cause of a very large proportion hysical defects such as were shown in the recent draft examinations; and secondly, because the amount of food wasted by overfeeding and between mated. We hope, therefore, in our war work to serve a double purpose, the conthe conservation of food.

The campaign is being carried the pre-natal period and extending well into the school age. Breast feeding will be encouraged and instructions given to nursing mothers. Infant feeding will stations by demonstrations in school auditoriums of the care of milk in ho and the proper preparation of infant foods, and by a corps of trained volunteer workers, who will enter the he

Feeding during the pre-school period the ages from 1 to 5 or 6, which comprises a group too old for the welfare stations, too young for medical super-vision of the school, is, we hope, being reached by educational placards, by literature distributed through the schools merchand!", by frequently repeated talks to parent and teacher associations and other organisations and by demor strating by models the proper foods and their required proportions.

We feel that we have already created such interest.

Director Child Welfare, Schanectady Health Department,

PORTO RICO'S STATUS its Patriotic Devotion to the United

States Invites Study of Its Wants. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The

ttitude taken by the Porto Rican per in defence of American ideals should be gratifying to all Americans.

tion, which represents the sentiment of the entire country, should not be overlooked by those of our statesmen who due to party conveniences and selfish aims, have bitterly antagonised legisla tive acts granting home rule to a people enlightenment is and has always been entitled to the prerogative enjoyed by other citizens of the republic

Thousands of Porto Ricans are at the resent moment being trained to go to Europe to uphold at the risk of their lives the precepts of democracy advoties, and they are not doing so as the result of a legislative enactment making the military service compulsory They have done so spontaneously, re nost fervent national sentiment, and yet Porto Ricans, though American citiof a bill which recently passed the United States Congress, are unjustly and unfairly deprived of the rights bestowed upon our people by our Federal Consti-

The statement made in the pust by Republican politicians and advocates of mperialism to the effect that the Con stitution does not necessarily follow the flag, is just as absurd as if it were claimed that the holy and sound teachings of Christianity do not follow the ly emblems and anywhere they go they utterly useless, absolutely reckless waste carry with them the moral of the ideals

Germanophiles residing in Latin known as "true time") is used very litawakening would be like. Let him for American countries, who are employing its most celebrated farm product and the heides which inturnees those who yet a moment consider the situation of sub- all means within their reach to discredi he called "sun disl time." but although way, surface and elevated transit lines the good faith of the United States and were every passenger automobile shut to convey the idea that the precepts of down by Government order and the democracy preached by us are fallacious and insincere statements, preconthrown on the tender mercies of Mr. ceived with intent of deceit, dead let-Shonts! We do waste oil, but not that term in the code of veracity, are making capital case of the organic law of Porto tives of the island rightful citizens o the nation, nevertheless deprives them of the privileges granted every day to any illiterate alien who has enough money to pay his sternige transportation to the

It is painful to see that though Porto ance with the provisions of the law, the are not, however, allowed to elect their Chief Executive of the nation, who can name for the office anybody that pleases his fancy. Furthermore, all legslative acts enacted by the Porto Rican Congress are subject to the veto of the Governor, the President and the Con gress of the United States, and that eto means death to any act of the Insular Legislature unless it meets with will of that unfortunate people.

vanced democratic doctrines in the sia are in these times of great political structed manikins that supply so much pedestrians and social evolutions strongly in favor to the imagination; nor did he need am confident that the countiess admirers of the man who knocked 'em ple of small countries may have an opportunity of expressing their views and issue notes and tones with as little ex sentiments regarding their own affairs, ertion as those from his larynx. His and if this human right is advocated for lips were motionless, as he would throw people who cannot be compared to the his voice to the most northeast rafters Porto Ricans, either in an intellectual of the old Town Hall or into the cellar or moral sense. I cannot understand why depths. He also dabbled in legerdemain such a fundamental principle of liberty while his ventriloquial functions were hould be denied to them

Those thousands of Porto Ricans who voluntarily have offered their lives to deem Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro from the yoke of the tyrant, but if they fall in battle while fulfilling their noble cuties, they will carry to their graves the sorrowful thought that they gav tugs would be required if the floats their lives to secure for others what has been unjustly refused to them.

GONEALO O'NEILL

The High Sp

From the Memphia Commercial Appeal.

There, little thrift stamp, Stick like glue, Till another little thrift stamp, Sidies up to you.

Spafford correspondence Homer Republican.
Young people returning from a social
held at Scott Thursday evening had some difficulty, as they ran into a large load of feed and other things too numerous to Sticking in a fiood Cause.

THE PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT OF NEW YORK.

Governor Edge of New Jersey Discusses Action by the Interstate Commission to Relieve Freight Congestion.

From the Review of Reviews for February

The neglected possibilities of the all railroad lines. Goods consigned to port of New York could not fail to New York would go to New York via suggest themselves to far sighted statesmanship. It was inevitable that its development should be easerly sought by State government, a function of which is to nourish and capi- of railroads would be automaticall talize public resources as well as to solve social, economic and political

Observation of the port of New York like that resulting in the recent fuel shows growth, not as a result of systematic intelligent development but in spite of the lack of such development. Enterprise has been individual. Constructions and extensions have been according to a variety of ideas. There improvement. Consequently, efforts and the joint port commission has one have been largely at cross purposes tion, and we have only scratched the surface of commercial possibilities.

It was for the purpose of coordinat-ing these efforts through the adoption of a uniform plan of port development that New Jersey sought the cooperation of the Commonwealth of New York to act jointly in the institution and financing of a managing commis being sion. I have no doubt that this commission will eventually acquire all valport particularly on the New Jersey ing present holders, but merely to gain title in order that waterfront improvelines insuring a maximum of waterfront facilities. In the meantime, the land would be leased to present occupants under terms imposed for the future, which would provide for revenue. received either as rental or tax, being based on the increased commercial value of the waterfront as uniformly improved under public ownership. First cost of developing natural assets is merely an investment that must

bring rich dividends in public revenue and human benefits. Relief from traffic congestion will ne about through systematization cilities. This is another problem for the States to solve in their joint en-

when necessary. and consigned to the West? should manufactured articles bound to New Jersey and the South from est national factor of its kin-points in the East or raw material a fertile field for operations. bound from the South to the East pass through New York and needlessly paralyze that city's arteries of com-merce, badly needed for its own rapidly expanding business? Why should New York business be compelled to depend on slow and uncertain river transportation or the limited individ-ual facilities of competing railroad

Plainly the remedy lies in a clearing house for shippers and consignees on the New Jersey meadows. This would New Jersey in respect to the nationa yard, reached by all of the railroad lines entering New York through con-York by traffic tunnels. Then we should have a "Manhattan Transfer" but also to the pinnacle of commerfor freight only; it would be a point of cial and industrial success in times of sorting and transfer for the freight of peace.

THAT COMICAL BROWN.

His Fortune in the Old Days.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: As Mr. Howe says, Hank White's farm suggestion that High Bridge be reme was in Felchville and not Fitchville, as it appeared. Felchville is entitled to who for sentimental reasons would like this correction as Hank was probably to have the old structure retained

one that sold the best. And now comes Comical Brown, whose in contact with High Bridge the more memory has been rescued from oblivion one loves it. by Mr. Blood! I remember him well. The attraction about High Bridge 18 He was not a minstrel but a monologist, be its age; it is one of the elder I recall the posters announcing his com-ing which were tacked on the door of Cook's "History of the Bronx" says the Town Hall and on the big elm trees "The oldest bridge across the Harlem that lined the sidewalks, bearing in to-day is the famous High Bridge, who large black type the caption, "That was completed in 1849. It is an ex-Comical Brown," with the accent on cellent example of masonry ar "That." This was to convey the im- struction and is one of the sights of the pression that he was the only funny neighborhod."

manager, in illustrating his points to the pose to-day. But what is there in the wat audience, referred incidentally to his of sinking these pipes now? If the demoniacal laugh in the lonesome desert, were done, then High Bridge could be closing with the remark: "And what in —— he finds to laugh at there, no ventencing anybody, because even in the one knows."

From his cavernous interior would Lew Dockstader Traced Back Futti

remembrance from the boys of his time, uphold American precepts and ideals for whom entertainments like his were may with their cooperation help to re. all too few during those snowbound New England winters.

GEORGE T. ALDRICH. YONKERS, February 7.

H. P. PERRY. Tirusville, N. J., February 6.

and frequently added to the conges- of eight. Heretofore, with eight rail road systems passing through New Jersey into New York and the natural and legal obstacles attending any pooling of interests such as would be required in order to have freight confask would have been far more diff.

the tunnel and goods consigned else-

where would go to destination by the

most direct route. Likelihood of con-

increased without any corresponding

chances of transportation paralysis

famine would be materially lessened

effectuate these improvements than

now, when the Federal Government

has taken over control of all railroad

businesslike and practicable.

increase in equipment, and the

gestion at the port would be reduced

Under some conditions laws aimed to prevent monopoly and unsafe combina-tions of business interests are wise and necessary: under others they at ear waste and lack of system in the name of open competition. At any rate the present opportunity to moderate un-bridled competition and mobilize our transportation lines into a commercial force of maximum power is timely Neglecting to grasp it we fail in our

War was not in mind at the time that New York and New Jersey formed their partnership in the interests of the port. Its coming has served to emphasize the importance of the un dertaking. If increased commercial freight transportation made additions port facilities desirable in times of peace, the abnormal demand upon our transportation lines and other traffi of freight handling quite as much as arteries for the speedy movement of men, food and fuel has made them a positive necessity in time of war Causes of congestion must be removed deavor supplemented by Federal aid at once. Industry and commerce must be speeded up to maximum. Our war Why should New York be congested must be a 100 per cent, war in busiwith freight shipped from other points ness activities at home as well as in military activities in fields afar. Obvi-

ously the port of New York, the great

est national factor of its kind, provides

Undoubtedly the Federal authorities shared this view when they constituted Harbor Development Commission, to gether with certain other officials, the War Board of the Port of New York and provided that Federal funds to prosecute the war through improvements in and about the port should be expended through this board. cent events, in fact, have shown that the joint action of New York and value of capitalizing the great por Through it as the national gateway necting railroads and linked to New we march not only to the zenith of our fighting power in time of war.

Also Harrington, Whose Voice Was Sentimental and Utilitarian Views of

member of a somewhat numerous But if sentimental reasons are His show consisted in talking for an Bridge should be retained, particulhour and a half and during that period when it interferes with the prothe audience was supposed to laugh, widening of the Harlem. It was built The situation was analogous to the case to carry the old Croton Aqueduct across of the hyens in the animal show. The the river and probably serves that t

Brown got along well enough at the bridge. There is no heavy traffic dential reasons avoided large centres. tions are limited to foot traveller Let me resurrect the shade of one more invested with the right of annulling the of those almost forgotten entertainers Bridge could be well taken care to complete the triumvirate. I mean Washington Bridge, a few blocks not et The leaders of liberal ideas and ad- Harrington, the ventriloquist. He was north. The latter is up to date unaccompanied by the modern stage way, with a large roadway for United States, England and even in Rus- dressing and those artistically con-

Harrington, too, deserves a grateful

Self-Bestraint for Smokers.

sacco smokers are expected not smoke in homes, waiting rooms and simllar places because their tobacco smoke is more or less disagreeable to many persons and because their custom is not essential to any lady's well being. Since the same obligation naturally holds in all other places, both public and there were identified with the sace at semi-public. I suggest that all smokers different times such well known begin to show themselves disposed to consider non-smokers by refraining from Hennessey brothers, Ed M. F. this questionable pleasure while not in

What do the smokers think about it?

HIGH BRIDGE.

the Old Structure. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SUL The for barges will not find favor with those bridge which influences those who vis-

it. It is a fact that the more one comes

aside, there is no good reason why High course, at any time, as the ac-Whatever traffic there is on His traffic and sidewalks on either

NEW YORK, February 7.

THE EDITOR OF THE STA Dockstader (then Lew Claps) was a member of Whitmore and Charles strels in 1876. He was one of the and dance team of Mack and China an inside end man, Hank William George M. Clark being the prince I was born in Windsoe county

mont, a few miles from Felche was a personal friend of bath White and George M. Clark. If Charlie Clark or Dr. Ge-Huntley, who were former agents of the Whitmore and Cart streis, or E. Prescott Hardy. they could furnish some good and In my barnstorming days as vance agent of crossroads shows quently toured over the er strels and I often came in cont hobnobbed with the members organization. Resides Lew I'ers as Charles A. Mason. way and Mack, O. A. Whitm Maynard, P. J. O'Brien, the nings, Eddle Lincoln and Arch

RIDGEWOOD HEIGHTS, Februa